

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in reply to the Final Office Action dated November 19, 2007. At the time of the Office Action, claims 28 – 66 had been pending. Claims 28, 30, 36-39, 45-48, 54-55, 59 and 63 stand rejected; claims 31-35, 40-44, 49-53, 56-58, 60-62 and 64-66 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this Response, claims 29-32, 36, 38-41, 45, 47-50, 54, 56, 60 and 64 are amended and claims 28, 37, 46, 55, 59 and 63 are cancelled. Accordingly, claims 29-36, 38-45, 47-54, 56-58, 60-62 and 64-66 remain pending in the application, of which claims 31-32, 40-41, 49-50, 56, 60 and 64 are independent.

Silence with regard to any of the Examiner's rejections is not acquiescence to such rejections, but rather a recognition by Applicants that such previously lodged rejection is moot based on Applicants' remarks and/or amendments. Specifically, silence with regard to Examiner's rejection of a dependent claim, when such claim depends from an independent claim that Applicants consider allowable for reasons provided herein, is not an acquiescence to such rejection of the dependent claim, but rather a recognition by Applicants that such previously lodged rejection is moot based on Applicants' remarks and/or amendments relative to the independent claim (that Applicants consider allowable) from which the dependent claim depends. Furthermore, any cancellations of and amendments to the claims are being made solely to expedite prosecution of the instant application. Applicants reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the instant or a subsequent application.

Claim Objections

The objections to the claims under 37 CFR 1.75 are rendered moot by the cancellation of the corresponding claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 28, 30, 36-39, 45-48, 54-55, 59 and 63 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornell et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,599,490 in view of Glaser et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,875,242. Claims 31-35, 40-44, 49-53, 56-58, 60-62 and 64-

66 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the based claim. For the sole purpose of expediting allowance and issuance of the claims indicated to be allowable and without prejudice, disclaimer or waiver to including claims corresponding to those canceled or of any other scope supported by the present disclosure in a continuing application, the present amendment rewrites the pending claims such that all pending claims include subject matter indicated to be allowable. Thus, by this Amendment, claims 31, 32, 40, 41, 49, 50, 56, 60 and 64 are rewritten in independent form including the subject matter of their respective base independent claims which are canceled. Thus, claims 31-35, 40-44, 49-53, 56-58, 60-62 and 64-66 are now in condition for allowance. Further, rejected claims 29-30, 36, 38-39, 45, 47-48 and 54 are rewritten to depend from allowable claims 32, 41, and 50 thereby rendering the previously rejected claims allowable.

CONCLUSION

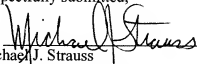
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims 29-36, 38-45, 47-54, 56-58, 60-62 and 64-66 in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the present amendment, withdraw all outstanding rejections, and pass this application to issue.

This Response is accompanied by a petition and fee for a one month extension of time and extra claim fee for the addition of three independent claims. However, if any other extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is required the petition is hereby made. Further, if any other or additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. 414.088/10801998 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Dated: March 19, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By


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